

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested. Claims 9-15, 19, 20 and 25-40 were in the application, claim 25 has been amended, claims 9-20, 27-29, and 32-40 have been cancelled and new claims 41-54 added.

Entry of this amendment after final is respectfully requested as placing the application in condition for allowance and/or reducing the issues on appeal. Entry is proper in accordance with MPEP 714.12:

“Any amendment that will place the application either in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal may be entered. Also, amendments filed after a final rejection, but before or on the date of filing an appeal, complying with objections or requirements as to form are to be permitted after final action in accordance with 37 CFR 1.116(b)”

In the Final Office action, the Examiner indicated that claims 27-29 would be allowable if placed in independent form. Claim 25 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 27 therein, placing claim 27 in independent form. Thus claim 25 and the claims depending therefrom, claims 26, 30, 31, 41 and 42, are in condition for allowance.

New independent claim 43 comprises the combination of claims 25 and 28, placing claim 28 in independent form, and thus claim 43 and the claims depending therefrom, claims 44-48 are in condition for allowance.

New independent claim 49 comprises the combination of claims 25 and 29, placing claim 29 in independent form, and claim 49 and the claims depending therefrom, claims 50-54 are in condition for allowance.

To further place the application in condition for allowance, the withdrawn apparatus claims have been cancelled, without prejudice to refiling in a divisional application. Claims 32-34 which were subject to the double patenting rejection have also been cancelled. Claims 35-40, being

drawn to a non-elected species, were also cancelled.

Claims 19 and 20, withdrawn method claims that depended from claim 25 have been essentially presented as new claims 41 and 42, 47 and 48, and 53 and 54. As these claims properly depend from and contain each and every element of an allowed independent method claim incorporating the limitations of claim 25 therein, rejoinder to the application at this time is proper.

All issues having been addressed, and each objection and rejection having been rendered moot, favorable consideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested. However should the examiner believe that direct contact with the applicant's attorney would advance the prosecution of the application, the examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

/WJS/
William J. Sapone
Registration No. 32,518
Attorney for Applicant(s)

Coleman Sudol Sapone P.C.
714 Colorado Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06605
Telephone No. (203) 366-3560
Facsimile No. (203) 335-6779